

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05946 141132Z

51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 NRC-05 SSO-00 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9359

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DEPT PASS ERDA AND NRC

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, GW

SUBJECT: EXPORT OF US URANIUM TO FRG

1. EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED QUESTIONS AND PROTESTS FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT CURRENT DELAYS IN EXPORT OF US URANIUM TO FRG. ONE INDUSTRIALIST CHARGED THAT THIS DELAY COULD JEOPARDIZE THE VIABILITY OF HIS COMPANY AS A COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE. HE WARNED THAT CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE US AS A SUPPLIER COULD FORCE EUROPEAN NATIONS TO PRODUCE HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM, ALTHOUGH EUROPE DID NOT WISH TO TOOL UP FOR UNECONOMIC TASK OF PRODUCING THE RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITIES OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM REQUIRED. HE SUGGESTED THAT OTHER USG INTERESTS, I.E. NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, COULD BE JEOPARDIZED SHOULD US POLICIES FORCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN CAPACITY FOR HIGH ENRICHMENT URANIUM.

2. WELT AM SONNTAG, APRIL 13 REPORTED USATOMIC
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PAGE 02 BONN 05946 141132Z

ENERGY AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED OVER THE WEEKEND THE

US WILL NOT SUPPLY ANY MORE URANIUM. GERMAN SPOKESMEN ARE QUOTED THAT EVEN TEMPORARY CESSATION OF URANIUM DELIVERIES WOULD BE A SEVERE BLOW TO GERMAN ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, THE FRG MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY BELIEVED THAT THE FRG COULD CONTINUE TO PRODUCE POWER FROM EXISTING STOCKS OF URANIUM FOR A FEW MONTHS. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG MUST MAKE ITSELF AS INDEPENDENT AS POSSIBLE OF FOREIGN ENERGY SOURCES. THE MINISTER REPORTED THAT THE FREEZE ON DELIVERIES RESULTED FROM ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN THE US. THE NEWS STORY REPORTS ALSO THE SUSPICIONS OF AN OPPOSITION LEADER THAT THIS US STEP WAS TAKEN BECAUSE THE FRG PLANS TO TRANSFER THE MOST MODERN TECHNOLOGIES TO THE USSR, THEN TO THE POLES AND GDR. IN HIS VIEW, THE FREEZE VIOLATES US ASSURANCES OFFERED DURING THE NEGOTIATION OF THE NPT.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BY CABLE REPORT ABOUT ALLEGED US DECISION AND GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO THESE INQUIRIES AND CHARGES.
HILLENBRAND

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